

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 01631 281552Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 271551Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5760
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS TORONTO 1631

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, CA
SUBJECT: ONTARIO LEGISLATOR JAILED BY ONTARIO COURT

1. ED ZIEMBA, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBER OF THE
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR HIGH PARK-SWANSEA, WAS SENTENCED
TO 8 DAYS IN JAIL BY PROVINCIAL COURT JUDGE ROBERT
DNEPER LAST WEEK FOR REFUSING TO NAME THE SOURCE
OF HIS INFORMATION IN A COURT FRAUD CASE WHICH RESULTED
FROM ACCUSATIONS MADE BY ZIEMBA REGARDING USE OF ONTARIO
HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN MONEY (OHIP). ZIEMBA IS TO RETURN
TO COURT WEDNESDAY (JUNE 29) AND SUPPOSEDLY WOULD RECEIVE
ANOTHER 8 DAY SENTENCE IF HE CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO
NAME HIS SOURCE. ZIEMBA CLAIMING CONFIDENTIALITY OF
INFORMATION FROM A CONSTITUENT PARAMOUNT IN THIS MATTER.

2. WHILE ZIEMBA IS RECEIVING A GOOD DEAL OF PRESS
SYMPATHY IN NEWS STORIES AND ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM PROVINCIAL
NDP AND LABOR UNION MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY CANADIAN
UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, EDITORIAL REACTION FROM MEDIA
IS ALMOST TOTALLY AGAINST SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR
LEGISLATORS. TORONTO STAR AND TORONTO SUN HAVE BOTH
STRONGLY STATED OPPOSITION TO ALLEGED NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT LEGISLATOR -CONSTITUENT
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RELATIONSHIP.

GISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONVENING
JUNE 27 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE RECENT PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
AND NDP EXPECTED TO MOVE FOR ZIEMBA'S RELEASE AND TO
URGE BROADENING OF IMMUNITY RULES FOR MPPS. NDP PROVINCIAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY CALLED ON FEDERAL JUSTICE

MINISTER BASFORD TO RELEASE ZIEMBA AND TO CHANGE THE
CRIMINAL CODE SECTION THAT ALLOWS INDEFINITE REPETITION OF
JAIL TERMS FOR REFUSAL TO ANSWER A QUESTION IN COURT.

4. ZIEMBA JAILING REPORTEDLY FIRST INSTANCE OF PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATOR INCARCERATED SINCE CONFEDERATION.
CANTWELL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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